

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

(b)

## DIVISION OF LAND USE MANAGEMENT

### Request for Comments on the 303(d) List Methods Document

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking public comment on a proposed 2004 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document. This Methods Document is intended to satisfy New Jersey's requirement to provide a description of the methodology used to develop the 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies under section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1313(d)).

The proposed 2004 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document is available for review from the Division of Land Use Management, Water Quality Standards and Assessment, PO Box 402, 401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, by calling (609) 777-1753, or directly from the Department's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/sgwq/wat/integratedlist/integratedlist2004.html>.

The State is required to biennially prepare and submit to USEPA a report addressing the overall water quality of the State's waters in accordance with Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1315(b)). This report is commonly referred to as the 305(b) Report or the Water Quality Inventory Report. The Federal Clean Water Act under Section 303(d)(1)(A) also requires the State to issue a list of water quality limited waters. This list has been known as the 303(d) List.

In November 2001, USEPA issued guidance that encourages states to integrate the 305(b) Report and the 303(d) List into one report. Following USEPA's guidance, the Department chose to develop an Integrated Report for New Jersey in 2002. The Department anticipates submitting an Integrated Report in 2004 also. As explained in the 2002 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, (which can be viewed at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/sgwq/wat/integratedlist/PartI.pdf>), the Integrated Report assigns waterbodies to one of five sublists. The Methods Document outlines the technical process used to assign a waterbody to a particular sublist. The 303(d) is now identified as Sublist 5 of the Integrated List.

The methods the Department intends to use to develop the 2004 Integrated List of Waterbodies are described in detail in the proposed 2004 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document. The goal of this methods document is to provide an objective and scientifically sound waterbody assessment methodology. This document includes a description of the quality assurance requirements as well as methods used to evaluate water quality data and assess water quality standards attainment, and the rationale for the placement of waterbodies in Sublists 1 through 5.

After review and consideration of comments received on the proposed 2004 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods Document, the Department will prepare and public notice the proposed 2004 Integrated List. The final Integrated List of Waters will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for review as part of the 2004 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

Interested persons should submit written comments on the Methodology to Debra Hammond at the Division of Land Use Management, Bureau of Water Quality Standards and Assessment, PO Box 402, 401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. All comments must be submitted by July 2, 2003.